

ARTICLE APPEARED
ON PAGE A 110THE WASHINGTON POST
24 May 1982

CIA Is Said to Increase Soviet Troop Estimates

Associated Press

The CIA has increased its estimate of Soviet military manpower by 1 million men to a new total of 5.8 million, Rep. Les Aspin (D-Wis.) said yesterday.

The new figure, however, reflects an improved estimate of Soviet non-combat troops assigned to construction, civil defense and internal security rather than an increase in fighting manpower, Aspin said.

"The larger estimate represents no increase in Soviet numerical strength and no increase in the CIA's estimate of what it refers to as the 'national security force.' Manpower in the combat services is still estimated at 4.3 million," he said.

"Some people are going to distort the new estimate to make the public think the Soviets are stronger, when really they have no additional military capability and all the newly discovered troops are doing the same stuff we thought they were doing with fewer people," he said.

"In fact, it underscores how inef-

ficient the Soviets are—how the Russian forces get less kill for the kopek," he said.

CIA spokesman Dale Peterson said the agency would have no comment until it had been able to study Aspin's statement.

According to Aspin, the CIA's 1978 estimate putting total Soviet military manpower at 4.8 million counted 520,000 troops as non-combat forces.

The revised Soviet military total greatly outnumbers America's 2.1 million uniformed military personnel. But Aspin, a member of the House Armed Services Committee, noted that "under the all-volunteer force, the U.S. armed forces have begun learning to economize on uniformed manpower. Non-military jobs have been handed over to civilians."

"The Soviets still have conscription and pay their recruits 3.80 rubles (about \$6) a month," he said. "They can afford to be profligate with manpower while the U.S. military cannot."

STAT

STAT